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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/991,592	11/16/2001	Joseph A. Roberts	04489/59923	4325
26869	7590	10/21/2003	EXAMINER	
DEVINE, MILLIMET & BRANCH, P.A. 111 AMHERST STREET BOX 719 MANCHESTER, NH 03105			TRAN, LONG K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2818	

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/991,592

Applicant(s)

ROBERTS, JOSEPH A.

Examiner

Long K. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Upon further consideration, the restriction in the previous Office Action (Paper No. 4) has been withdrawn.
2. Claims 1 – 7 are presented for examination.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Drawings

3. The drawings filed on November 16, 2001 are acceptable subject to correction of the informalities indicated on the attached "Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review," PTO-948. In order to avoid abandonment of this application, correction is required in reply to the Office action. The correction will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification and claims.
5. Add at the end of the first paragraph: -- Now U.S. patent No. 6,375,489. --
6. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that

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the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

7. Claims **1, 2, 4, 5, 6** and **7** are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 16: change "said insulation plane" to -- a tapered insulation plane --;

Claim 1, at the end of line 16; change " the " to -- a --;

Claim 1, line 20: change "of said at least one " to -- of at least one --;

Claim 2, line 2: change " said dielectric to flow " to -- said dielectric insulation to --;

Claim 4, line 5: change " one spring contact " to -- one deflectable spring contact --;

Claim 5, line 1; change " said " to -- an --;

Claim 5, line 2; change " said " to -- an --;

Claim 5, line 3; change " said support" to -- said contact support --;

Claim 6, line 11; change " deflecting said at least " to -- deflecting at least --;

Claim 7, line 3; change " the deflectable " to -- a deflectable --;

Claim 7, line 4; change " the contact " to -- the deflectable contact --;

Claim 7, line 7; change " the upper " to -- an upper --;

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Claim 7, line 8; change " the contact, where the contact " to -- the deflectable contact, where the deflectable contact --;

Claim 7, line 10; change " the conductive " to -- a conductive --;

Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 1 – 7 would be allowed.

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance: Claims 1 – 7 would be allowable over the prior art of record because none of the prior art whether taken singularly or in combination, especially when these limitations are considered within the specific combination claimed, to teach:

Steps of: pulling conductive circuit into an electrical connector wherein it is wrapped around the at least one activation cam and brought into contact with one deflectable contact having a tapered, pointed contact tip forming an tapered insulation plane; using the tapered insulation plane of each deflectable contact to pierce and peel back a dielectric insulation of the conductive circuit to create a surface finish to surface finish, gas-tight, partially sealed electrical connection (as cited in claim 1); deflecting one contact by passing one circuit over a deflection ridge such that a tapered insulation plane on a deflectable contact pierces and peels off a top layer of dielectric and adhesive from the conductive circuit, thereby exposing individual conductors of the conductive circuit, to connect to the deflectable contact with a conductive portion of the conductive circuit to form a gas-tight, electrical connection (as cited in claims 6 and 7).

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

When responding to the office action, Applicants' are advice to provide the examiner with the line numbers and page numbers in the application and/or references cited to assist the examiner to locate the appropriate paragraphs.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Long K. Tran whose telephone number is 703-305-5482. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on 703-308-4910. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-3329.

Long Tran

October 17, 2003


David Nelms
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800